

***Coluber constrictor constrictor* (Northern Black Racer)****Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** *Reptilia* (Reptiles)**Order:** *Squamata* (Lizards And Snakes)**Family:** *Colubridae* (Colubrids)**General comments:**

Recent surveys confirm extreme rarity and suggest strong declines in ME and New England

**Species Conservation Range Maps for Northern Black Racer:**Town Map: [Coluber constrictor constrictor\\_Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Coluber constrictor constrictor\\_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:**Maine Status: **Endangered****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA****Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority:**

Northeast Partners In Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC):

Regional Responsibility: &gt; 50% US/Canada Distribution (includes 'close'), Concern: &gt;= 50 % of States Listed in WAP

**High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA****Understudied rare taxa: NA****Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to Northern Black Racer:**

Formation Name		Agricultural	
Macrogroup Name		Agricultural	
Habitat System Name:		Pasture-Hay	Notes: secondary habitat for active and abandoned pasture
Formation Name		Cliff & Rock	
Macrogroup Name		Cliff and Talus	
Habitat System Name:		Laurentian-Acadian Acidic Cliff and Talus	Notes: secondary and may be used for overwintering
Formation Name		Developed	
Macrogroup Name		Extractive	
Habitat System Name:		Quarries-Pits-Stripmines	Notes: secondary where vegetation is appropriate (consisting of mostly low-shrub)
Formation Name		Grassland & Shrubland	
Macrogroup Name		Outcrop & Summit Scrub	
Habitat System Name:		Northern Appalachian-Acadian Rocky Heath Outcrop	Notes: secondary
Macrogroup Name		Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland	
Habitat System Name:		Introduced Shrubland	<b>**Primary Habitat**</b> Notes: primary where shrub cover is low-growing (< 1m high)
Habitat System Name:		Powerline Right-of-Way	<b>**Primary Habitat**</b> Notes: primary
Habitat System Name:		Ruderal Upland - Old Field	Notes: secondary where sand/gravel /well-drained soils exist

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Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity	
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low

**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Energy Production and Mining****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Mining and Quarrying**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Loss of habitat to quarries and more often gravel/sand extraction are substantial threats**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Natural Systems Modifications****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Fire and Fire Suppression**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Suppression of fire OR fires that occur too frequently in fire prone systems where racers occur can result in gradual loss of habitat (too much fire results in loss of low shrub and too little fire results in succession tall brush or forest)**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Other Ecosystem Modifications**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Succession where anthropogenic activity previously maintained habitat**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Residential and Commercial Development****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Commercial and Industrial Areas**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Habitat loss from development and associated fragmentation and anthropogenic activities are substantial threats**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Housing and Urban Areas**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Habitat loss from development and associated fragmentation and anthropogenic activities are substantial threats**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Transportation and Service Corridors****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Roads and Railroads**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Direct mortality from vehicles on roadways can threaten populations where roads bisect habitat**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Biological Resource Use****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Hunting and Collecting Terrestrial Animals**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Intentional killing is a threat to many snakes but large species such as this are most often the target in opportune killings

***Coluber constrictor constrictor* (Northern Black Racer)****Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** *Reptilia* (Reptiles)**Order:** *Squamata* (Lizards And Snakes)**Family:** *Colubridae* (Colubrids)**Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Northern Black Racer:**

*\*Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Survey and Monitoring	<b>Biological Priority:</b> moderate	<b>Type:</b> new
Identify potential road crossing hotspots using GIS and monitor mortality at those locations with road surveys to prioritize the most problematic road segments for mitigation measures such as cautionary signage, exclusionary fencing			

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Roads and Railroads

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Habitat Management	<b>Biological Priority:</b> critical	<b>Type:</b> on-going
Manage black racer habitat to improve and expand upon habitat that is available where populations occur.			

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Fire and Fire Suppression

**Guild Level Conservation Actions:**

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

**Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:**

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

**Habitat Based Conservation Actions:**

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.*